

Soybeans closed higher when the November options market stopped trading on Friday. Light buying was attributed to sales to China, the President signing the corporate tax bill with the biodiesel incentive and moderate farmer selling (which has really helped basis). On a negative side ocean freight rates have gone through the roof which is a big negative for exports. On Monday soybeans closed higher again due to strong speculative short-covering with the funds covering approximately 4,000 contracts of beans and 6000 oil. Buying was apparently tied to the President’s signing of the bill. Not surprisingly Tuesday ended down because of profit taking from Monday’s high. On Wednesday the funds continued to offload and weakening gulf basis prompted speculators to offload more contracts. Soybean summary – from the bull side – technical indicators seem to be holding beans firm, on the bear side (and keeping with the technical theme) major resistance levels are just a bit higher so prices may not go higher. Corn got pre harvest jitters last week and basis bids fell due to farmer sales. Increasing talk of a lack of storage facilities should encourage more selling which will pressure basis and the December contract. The dropping value of the dollar has brought back some bullish momentum but that can’t hold the market up by itself. This week corn enjoyed a bit of a rebound (on Monday) due to spillover pressure from beans and Tuesday that upward trend continued. By Wednesday corn had settled and it closed fractionally mixed during a quiet session. The tight storage situation is drawing more attention following Monday’s crop progress report that showed over 5 billion bushels of corn yet to be harvested. Rain, fog and drizzle should keep that unharvested number pretty high throughout this week and hopefully keep price supported. The roles were reversed this week – wheat was the ugly sister with its prices falling while the other two markets rose. The light selling was attributed to Thursday’s Egyptian purchase of mainly Argentine wheat and improved conditions in the Hard Red Winter (HRW) area. However, on Monday wheat enjoyed the short covering actions of the funds (buying up 5000 contracts) and prices rose. Fund buying continued on Wednesday and basis firmed too! Wheat markets seem to be driven by corn and bean fundamentals these days as much as its own. Market movers this week are (for all markets): weather, storage pressures and producer selling.

LOCATION	CORN BASIS		SOYBEAN BASIS		WHEAT BASIS	
	CASH (Dec04)	NEW (Dec04)	CASH (Nov04)	NEW(Nov04)	CASH(Dec04)	NEW(Jul05)
Western MD	+2	n/a	-40	n/a	-9	n/a
Central MD	-8	-8	-19	-19	-13	-17
Southern MD	-17	-17	-26	-26	-33	-32
Upper E. Sh	-9	-9	-25	-25	n/a	-26
Lower E. Sh	+2	+2	-17	-17	-23	-27

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

There were 3.5 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending October 24, 2004. Cloudy, cool and wet weather hampered harvesting progress for **corn, soybeans, alfalfa** and **other hay**. Farmers were finishing up corn harvest and moving toward harvesting soybeans. Soybean harvest was 29 percent complete, slightly above last year and the five-year average. **Sorghum** harvest increased 25 percent from 55 percent to 78 percent complete. Slow progress was made on alfalfa and other hay harvest due to rainy weather. Farmers were finishing up their fourth cutting of alfalfa hay and some are making a fifth cutting. **Pasture** was rated 20 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 19 percent fair, 7 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. **Hay supplies** were rated 8 percent surplus, 72 percent adequate, 13 percent short, and 7 percent very short.

CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26
Western Md	2.08	2.08	4.81	4.90	3.10	3.10	1.88	1.88
Central MD	2.05	1.98	5.04	5.11	3.09	3.06	2.15	2.15
Southern MD	1.87	1.87	4.93	5.04	2.89	2.86	----	----
Upper E. Shore	1.95	1.97	4.89	5.05	----	----	----	----
Lower E. Shore	2.04	2.08	5.02	5.13	2.99	2.96	1.76	1.76

Soybean Meal	Lower Eastern Shore		Dealer’s Average Cash quotes (\$/ton)		
Date	10/19	10/26	Date	10/19	10/26
48% Soybean Meal	183.00	182.00	44% Soybean Meal	171.00	170.00

FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/BU) for Harvest delivery Dealer’s Avg Quotes								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/26
Western Md	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	----	1.98	----	5.11	3.22	3.20	----	----
Southern MD	1.87	1.87	4.93	5.04	3.08	3.05	1.65	1.65
Upper E Shore	1.95	1.97	4.89	5.05	3.12	3.11	1.65	1.65
Lower E Shore	2.04	2.08	5.02	5.13	3.13	3.10	1.65	1.65

GRAIN FUTURES- Chicago Board of Trade (\$/bu) Settle - Oct 26, 2004							
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ¹	
Dec	206.60	Nov	539.00	Dec	315.40	Dec	156.60
Mr05	217.20	Ja05	544.00	Mar05	328.00	Ja05	158.30
May	224.60	Mar	549.20	May	333.00	Mar	160.90
Jul	231.00	May	555.60	Jul	334.40	May	163.10
Sep	237.20	Jul	562.20	Sep	341.00	Jul	166.00
Dec	245.20	Aug	563.00	Dec	350.40	Aug	167.30

¹ \$/ton

HAY AND STRAW					
New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Oct 25, 2004 - 88 Loads					
Alfalfa 72.00-210.00	Mixed Hay 40.00-300.00	Timothy 70.00-235.00	Orchardgrass 65.00-135.00	Straw 137.00-290	
Westminister, MD - \$/bale - Oct 26, 2004 -					
Not Available					
POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending Oct 30, 2004					
	Current Week	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago	
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)	61.64	62.59	62.74	59.81	
12 City Composite	68.01	67.90	69.59	63.82	
LAMBS - Westminister, MD - \$/cwt - Oct 26, 2004					
40-50 lbs	102.50-120.00	100-110 lbs	97.50-117.50	Sheep	
60-70 lbs	98.00-127.50	120-130 lbs	90.00-102.50	All weights	45.00-82.50
80-90 lbs	100.00-125.00				
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Oct 26, 2004			DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminister, MD - Oct 26, 2004		
Base Price Range (\$/cwt) a.m.	Carcass Basis Base 185 lb Hog	Sows (1-3) 300-449 lbs	Butcher Hogs - Good		48.00-52.00
			Sows	215-260 lbs	38.25-47.75
Iowa, Minn	60.25-72.25	N/A			
Eastern Cornbelt	61.50-70.00	N/A	Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) - Next Sale 11/16/04		
FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -					
Gumboro, DE -			New Holland, PA - Oct 27, 2004		
Head:	Trend:		Head: 459	Trend: Mostly slaughter	
	Next Sale 11/16/04		40 lbs	110.00	60-65 lbs 75.00-80.00
			55 lbs	87.00	73 lbs 65.00
CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Oct 26, 2004			HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Oct 26, 2004		
Oct	87.63	Fb05	89.63	Dec	66.23 May 64.23
Nov	86.00	Apr	87.75	Feb05	65.53 Jun 68.58
Dec	87.25	Jun	84.03	Apr	63.25 Jul 64.35
STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)					
Winchester, VA - Oct 25, 2004			Westminister, MD - Oct 26, 2004		
Steers	300- 400 lbs	112.50-129.00	Steers (M&L)	200-300 lbs	91.00-103.00
	400- 500 lbs	106.00-126.50		400-500 lbs	94.00-116.00
	500- 600 lbs	100.00-117.50		600-700 lbs	80.00- 95.00
	600- 700 lbs	95.00-106.25		800-900 lbs	73.00- 80.50
	700- 800 lbs	99.00-102.00	Heifers (M&L)	200-300 lbs	80.00- 99.00
Heifers	300- 400 lbs	95.00-117.50		400-500 lbs	80.00-107.00
	400- 500 lbs	85.00-106.00		600-700 lbs	74.00- 93.00
	500- 600 lbs	90.00-105.50		800 lbs	70.00- 80.00
	600- 700 lbs	90.00- 98.00	Hols Bulls	80- 90 lbs	102.50-152.50
	700- 800 lbs	93.00- 97.25	Returned to farm	95-100 lbs	127.50-167.50
				105-120 lbs	137.50-172.50
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Oct 23, 2004					
Bull, Holstein	90-120 lbs	180.00-222.00	Plainer	90-120 lbs	165.00-202.00
Heifers, Hols	90-120 lbs	500.00-650.00	Plainer	90-120 lbs	300.00-410.00
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)					
Westminister, MD - Oct 19, 2004					
Fed Steers			Fed Heifers		
Select	75.00-80.00		Ch		81.50- 86.00
Standard	72.00-75.00		Select		73.50- 78.50
High Dressing	50.00-55.50		Calves		
Breakers	46.25-50.00		Slaughter		50.00- 92.50
Boners	40.00-46.00		Jerseys		10.00- 40.00
Thin & Slow	39.00-Down		Veals		107.50-110.00
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Oct 23, 2004					
Steers, Ch 2-3	1180-1490 lbs	80.00-83.35	Steady		
Heifers, Ch	1090-1245 lbs	71.00-74.75	None		
Cows, Breakers 75-80 pct lean		49.00-53.00	\$1.50-\$2.00 higher		
Bullocks,	1095-1475 lbs	71.00-76.75	None		
Bulls, YG 1	1445-2015 lbs	58.50-61.50	None		

For more information about this report, call 410-841-5740 or write:

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